



# DRUM AND BUGLE CALL

## MAHONING VALLEY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

---

**DATE:** Monday, October 9, 2017 @ 6:30 P.M.  
**LOCATION:** A La Cart Catering, 429 Lisbon St, Canfield, OH 44406  
**SPEAKER:** **Bradley Keefer, Professor of History KSU-Ashtabula**  
*Conflicting Memories on the "River of Death."*

Gordy Morgan, Editor  
Gary Wholf, Co-editor  
Dave Duchek, Publisher  
Hugh Earnhart, Reservations

[www.mahoninvallevcwrt.com](http://www.mahoninvallevcwrt.com)

In 2013, Kent State University press published *Conflicting Memories On The 'River Of Death': The Chickamauga Battlefield and the Spanish-American War, 1863-1933*, written by this month's speaker, Bradley Keefer. Keefer calls it a book about "a battle, three armies, and one battlefield" that "deals with the memo-

ries and values, images [and] meanings that go with those memories." But it also tells the story of "what happens when one group of soldiers disagrees with another on the meaning and importance of the same piece of sacred ground."

Bradley Keefer earned a BA (1980) and MA (1984) in history from Kent State University and received his PhD from Kent in 2006. He was a fellow student of last month's speaker, Julie Mujic. His dissertation, which became the book mentioned above, *Constructing Memories on the "River of Death,"* earned the Ohio Academy of History's Outstanding Dissertation Award in 2007.



Brad joined the Ashtabula Campus in January 2007, but is also doing research the 104th Ohio Volunteer Infantry in the Civil War and hopes to publish a full regimental study. He is a member of the Ohio Academy of History, Southern Historical Association, Organization of American Historians, Society of Civil War Historians, Pioneer America Society, Society of Military History, American Historical Association, East Tennessee Historical Society, Museum of the Confederacy, and the Civil War Preservation Trust.

---

**BOOK DONATIONS:** At the meetings, I often get donations for our used book sale but cannot always remember who gave them to me. *Please know that we appreciate every word of every page of every book and magazine.* Mostly those donations are small, but one large one came in the spring from Jim Bredl for his father, Don, who was moving to a nursing home. Don Bredl could no longer keep his beloved Civil War books, so he donated them to us knowing that they would go to others who would enjoy them and learn as much from them as he did. It's a common theme. Don has since passed away, and we acknowledge his thoughtfulness and generosity.

# The Ladies Department *By Charen Fink*

Typically, October is the month for the celebration of All Hallows' Eve, otherwise known as Halloween, which is one of the world's oldest holidays. By 1850, Americans across the country were dressing up and knocking on doors for food or money. Today we call this Trick-or-Treat.

Halloween was celebrated during the Civil War, though not quite the same as today. *Harper's Weekly* published in October 1861, featured a political cartoon of Confederate President Jefferson Davis gathering wheat topped with skulls. In October 1863, *Harper's* published a cartoon showing Copperhead Clement Vallandigham as a pumpkin.

In Peoria, IL, some of the wild boys threw putrid vegetables, took gates off of the hinges and other pranks.

In November 1864, Kate Stone wrote in her journal Brokenburn: "Lucy and I tried all magic arts to try our fortunes in diverse ways as it was 'All Hallow'e'en.' There were no ghostly footprints, no bearded faces looking over their shoulder and no brave soldiers disturbed their dreams after eating the white of an egg half-filled with salt.

The soldier may not have had time to celebrate, but no horror movie can compare to what those soldiers experienced during the Civil War.

Most Civil War battlefields speculate over the existence of ghosts. Some of them are the Sharpsburg battlefield near Sharpsburg, MD; Chickamauga battlefield in Georgia; Harper's Ferry, West Virginia; Bursas, Louisiana; and Warren, Arkansas. The Battle of Gettysburg was the largest battle in America and has many ghosts. Other haunts there include the Soldiers' Orphanage cellar and the Herr Tavern.

President Lincoln is said to haunt the White House and other sites.

Reference: Posted on October 31, 2013 by Caroline Davis on the internet  
Ghosts of the American Civil War, Wikipedia  
Also available are the four books, *Ghosts of Gettysburg* by Mark Nesbitt

The last sighting of his ghost was in the early 1980s when Tony Savoy, White House operations foreman, came into the White House and saw Lincoln sitting in a chair at the top of some stairs.

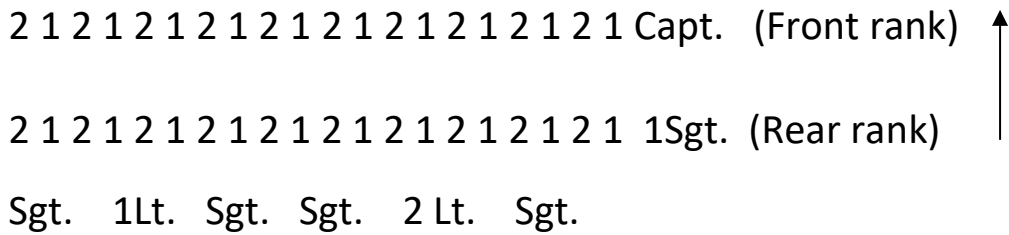
The Beauregard-Keyes House in New Orleans is said to be haunted not only by Gen. P.G.T. Beauregard, but an entire regiment of ghost soldiers.

*Charen's new book is titled The Civil War Ladies' Department, and in the acknowledgements she writes, "Fifteen years ago Hugh Earnhart ... asked me to write some articles for the newsletter about women." "That started it all," she says, and thanks him for his "faith and encouragement."*

*Reviewing The Civil War Ladies' Department, Ian Dewar of the 290 Foundation says "Rarely has such a book been written with such authority and passion nor with such a vast range of subjects that in a peaceful time would be lost to many's interests."*

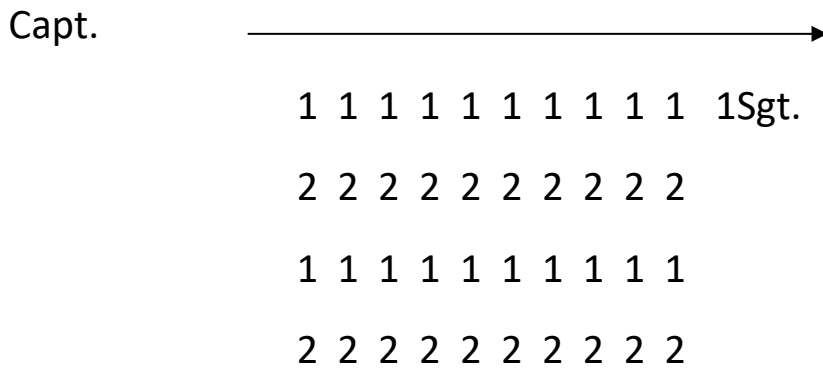
# TACTICALLY SPEAKING

By Gary Wholf



(File closers)

One of the problems in facing front in a company formation is movement. The company can move forward in this formation, but the 20-50 paces it covers is too wide for roads. To form a column, the company faces to the right or left, forming a column about 5-6 paces wide. The company has counted off by 2s as shown above. On the command "company, right face," the company faces right and the 2s move up and to the right between the 1s, forming a "column of fours." On the command "company, front" they return to the company front. If moving by the left flank, the company faces left and the 1s move up between the 2s.



(File closers facing right)



**Fredericksburg/Spotsylvania has record 2016.** Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania NMP recorded 969,895 visitors to its historic battlefields in 2016, which is an 8% increase over 2015. The bump is partly attributed to 2016 being the Centennial anniversary of the National Park Service, which saw a similar increase. The superintendent at Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania NMP, Kirsten Talken-Spaulding, said, "we couldn't be more pleased to hear that nearly one million people came to this park to explore the historical events that took place and to become a part of that history themselves by walking the ground during the NPS Centennial year."

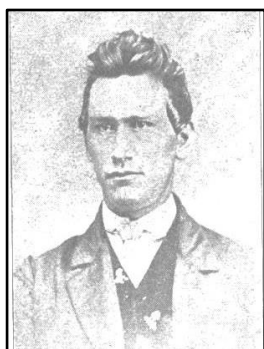
The park is the second-largest military park in the world, covering four major battlefields and five historic structures.

**Special Recognition**—This past July, President Donald Trump visited the AMVETS Post 44 in Struthers where he presented Robert Bishop with a certificate recognizing the 97-year-old veteran’s service during World War II. Bishop survived the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941.

This event is significant to our group because Robert Bishop is the uncle of MVCWRT member Charen Fink. Charen wasn’t surprised when “Uncle Bob” said of the honor, “I’m overwhelmed,” and added “I’m not a hero. I just did my job.”



**VETERAN OF CHICKAMAUGA**—George Washington Harlan was 19 years old when he left his father’s 100-acre farm in Columbiana County to join the army with other young men from the Alliance/Salem area. These boys were organized into Company B of the 65th Ohio Volunteer Infantry.

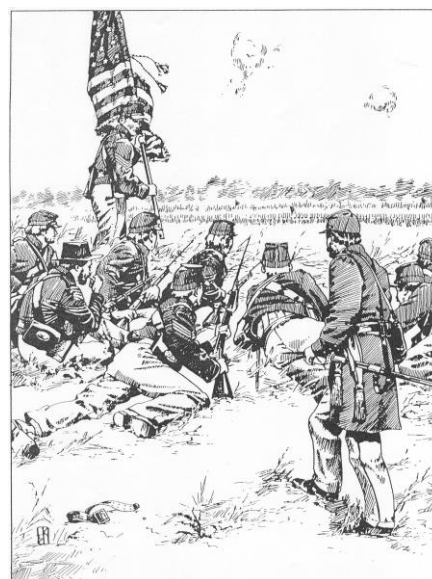


George Harlan

During 1862, the 65th was attached to Colonel Charles Harker’s brigade of the Army of the Ohio and fought at Shiloh, Corinth, and Perryville. At Stones River on December 31, the 65th faced Patrick Cleburne’s division while defending the vital Nashville Pike. The next day, Harlan was promoted to sergeant and later in May was entrusted with the regimental colors.

At Chickamauga, Harlan and the 65th Ohio were part of Thomas Woods’s division, which when ordered to support another part of the line left a deadly gap in the center that James Longstreet’s men exploited. Turning back, Harker’s brigade counter-attacked and drove the Texans and Alabamians through the Dyer Farm fields.

As they halted, a new threat appeared—Joseph Kershaw’s South Carolina brigade. Wood and Harker could not tell if these approaching units were reinforcements, so they ordered the division to hold its fire, but told the color bearers to “keep the flags well up.” The most prominent of them was planted on a knoll and held by Sergeant George Harlan. Although Woods’s line was forced to retreat, they bought precious time for George Thomas to form a critical final line of defense at Snodgrass Hill and Horseshoe Ridge.



Harlan was severely wounded but clung to the colors. He rejoined his regiment a year later and was discharged upon completion of his term of service. Nearly a year out of the army, Harlan was killed in a threshing machine accident on the family farm. He is buried in Quaker Hill cemetery in Sebring next to his boyhood friend, Jonathan Johnston, who was killed in action at Stones River. (The source for this story was an article written by fellow MVCWRT member Ken Bandy).

*(I’ll revisit my insightful interview with Dan Welch in the November issue).*